Packaging Battery Shipments

Follow these instructions to help ensure safe transportation of your battery shipments and your shipments with items containing batteries within the FedEx Express® network.
Unique Risks Associated With Shipping Batteries

Batteries provide the power source for personal computers, phones, automobiles, and life-saving appliances. However, batteries are classified as dangerous goods, because by definition they produce electricity from a chemical reaction. When improperly handled, packaged, or stored, batteries pose a risk for corrosive chemical and electrical fires. Emphasis must be placed on safety when packaging and transporting them. Following is an overview of the requirements for acceptance and transport of batteries with the FedEx Express system.

Preparing Charged Batteries for Shipment

At FedEx Express, we understand the importance of ensuring the safe transport of your shipments. Charged battery shipments or shipments with items that contain charged batteries may overheat and ignite in certain conditions and, once ignited, may be difficult to extinguish or may expend corrosive substances.

By following these guidelines and complying with all applicable local, state, and federal laws governing packing, marking, and labeling, you can do your part to help ensure your shipments arrive safely and on time to their final destinations. FedEx Express strictly adheres to International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulations.

FedEx Express limits the shipment of Hoverboards and other self-balancing powered vehicles to those from commercial manufacturers/shippers in original unopened packaging offered as UN 3171, “Battery Powered Vehicle” as fully regulated dangerous goods.

Shipping Wet Batteries

Wet batteries or wet-cell batteries are typically filled with corrosive acid or alkali and are regulated battery shipments (Class 8 — Corrosive). Wet batteries are common in vehicles, utility systems, un-interruptible power systems, and industrial machinery. These commodities must be correctly identified, classified, packaged, marked, and labeled. Additionally, the package must have the Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods completed and signed by a trained shipper.

UN Numbers and Proper Shipping Names for Wet Batteries

- UN 2794, Batteries, wet, filled with acid (electric storage)
- UN 2795, Batteries, wet, filled with alkali (electric storage)
- UN 2800, Batteries, wet, non-spillable (electric storage)

General Wet Battery Packaging Guidelines

- Package wet-cell batteries in containers, including metal containers, with acid/alkali leakproof liner, sealed to prevent leakage.
- Fasten batteries securely with fill openings and vents facing up to prevent short-circuiting or overheating.
- Position multiple batteries side by side, separated by nonconductive dividers.
- Place contents in a sturdy outer container.

Shipping Non-Spillable Wet Batteries

In accordance with 49CFR§173.159 and USG-11, an IATA (USG-11) non-spillable wet electric storage battery may be regarded as not subject to the regulations if the battery and its outer packaging are plainly and durably marked “NON-SPILLABLE” or “NON-SPILLABLE BATTERY.” The battery must also meet the conditions for being regarded as not subject to the regulations as prescribed in Special Provision A67, meaning that no shipper’s declaration is required.
Shipping Dry Batteries

Dry batteries are sealed, nonvented batteries used in flashlights or small appliances. They contain zinc salts and other solids or may be packed in combination with other metals. These batteries include non-rechargeable alkaline batteries and rechargeable batteries made with nickel metal hydride and nickel cadmium. Some dry batteries are regulated battery shipments (Class 4 — Dangerous When Wet or Class 8 — Corrosive) and must be correctly identified, classified, packaged, marked, and labeled.

UN Numbers and Proper Shipping Names for Dry Batteries

- UN 3028, Batteries, dry, containing potassium hydroxide, solid (electric storage)
- UN 3292, Batteries, containing sodium

General Dry Battery Packaging Guidelines

- Position multiple batteries or packages of batteries side by side, separated by dividers.
- Make sure batteries contained in an electronic device remain inside the device when shipping.
- Pack securely and fill void spaces to prevent shifting or movement in transit.
- Place contents in a sturdy outer container.

Shipping Lithium Batteries

Lithium batteries are commonly used in devices like mobile phones, laptops, PDAs, watches, cameras, and even children’s toys. Lithium battery shipments or shipments with items that contain charged batteries may overheat and ignite in certain conditions and, once ignited, may be difficult to extinguish. The two main types of lithium batteries are lithium metal (primary non-rechargeable) and lithium ion (rechargeable).

UN Numbers and Proper Shipping Names for Lithium Batteries

- UN 3480, Lithium ion batteries
- UN 3481, Lithium ion batteries contained in equipment
- UN 3481, Lithium ion batteries packed with equipment
- UN 3090, Lithium metal batteries
- UN 3091, Lithium metal batteries contained in equipment
- UN 3091, Lithium metal batteries packed with equipment

Lithium metal batteries (primary non-rechargeable), UN 3090 prepared in accordance with Section IA and Section IB of IATA packaging instruction 968 require approval prior to shipping by FedEx Express (operator variation FX-05). Go to fedex.com/dangerousgoods, select the How to Ship link, and follow the prompts for lithium batteries to learn about the approval process. FedEx Express will not accept lithium battery shipments containing or overpacked with items identified as Class or Division 1, 2.1, 2.2 (if CAO), 3, 4, 5, and 8, whether primary or subsidiary risk.

Section II IATA Lithium Battery Shipments

All packages containing lithium batteries are classified as Class 9 — Miscellaneous Dangerous Goods. However, packages containing small amounts of lithium may be exempted from most of the IATA and ICAO requirements if they comply with the requirements in Section II IATA Packing Instructions (PI) 966 and 967 for lithium ion batteries and 969 and 970 for lithium metal batteries as appropriate.

Beginning January 1, 2017, FedEx Express will not accept UN 3090 or UN 3480 offered as Section II for transit per FedEx Express operator variation FX-05.

Shipment of lithium metal batteries packed with equipment and lithium metal batteries contained in equipment accepted by FedEx Express may be packaged in accordance with...
Section II IATA packaging requirements provided that the metal or alloy cell content does not exceed more than 1g, and the aggregate lithium content does not exceed 2g per cell.

Shipments of lithium ion batteries packed with equipment and lithium ion batteries contained in equipment accepted at FedEx Express must meet the general requirements of the packaging instruction. For lithium ion or polymer cells, the watt-hour rating is not more than 20Wh and 100Wh per battery.

Each of the proper shipping names defined in Section II IATA may have additional requirements related to types of approved outer packaging, weight limits, and package drop tests of 1.2m.

When the Lithium Battery Mark (IATA Figure 7.1.C) is required and used for Section IB and permitted Section II lithium battery shipments, the UN number(s) must be added to the mark. Effective July 1, 2017: When the Lithium Battery Handling Label (Figure 7.4.H) is applied to packages/overpacks for Section IB and permitted Section II lithium battery shipments, the applicable UN number(s) must be marked on the package adjacent to the lithium battery handling label. [FX-05]

UN 3480, Lithium Ion Batteries Section IA and IB have a state of charge (SoC) maximum of 30% without competent authority approval from both the state of origin and the state of the operator.

**Section II Lithium Battery Packaging Guidelines**

To comply with Section II IATA shipping requirements for lithium batteries, accepted by FedEx Express, shipments must comply with specific packaging guidelines.

- Ensure that lithium batteries are individually packaged in fully enclosed inner packaging such as a plastic blister wrap or pasteboard to provide protection for each battery.
- Shield and protect lithium batteries to prevent short circuits or contact with conductive materials within the packaging that could cause short circuits.
- Ensure that packaging is proven (i.e., tested) to meet the requirements of each test in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, Sub-Section 38.3.
- Make sure that lithium batteries are completely enclosed (such as in equipment or surrounded by plastic with void space filled to prevent movement), except when the proper shipping names end with “contained in equipment.”
- Place contents in a sturdy outer container.
- Provide correct labeling and documentation.

Certain fully regulated Section IA and Section I Packing Instructions require UN specification packaging that meets Packing Group II performance standards. Refer to the specific IATA Packing Instruction for complete packaging requirements.


**Section IA IATA Lithium Battery Shipments**

Lithium batteries, both lithium ion and lithium metal, are fully regulated dangerous goods when prepared under Section IA IATA regulations. These commodities must be correctly identified, classified, packaged, marked, and labeled. Additionally, the package must have the Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods completed and signed by a trained shipper.

**Section IB IATA Stand-Alone Lithium Battery Shipments**

Section IB requirements apply to lithium metal cells with a lithium metal content not exceeding 1g and lithium metal batteries with a lithium metal content not exceeding 2g packed per Table 968-IB. Section IB requirements apply to lithium ion cells with a 20Wh and batteries of 100Wh or less per Table 965-IB. “IB” is required on the shipper’s declaration after Packing Instruction. See the applicable Packing Instruction for complete details. All IB shipments are required to have a Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods, and “IB” must be indicated after Packing Instruction, either in the Packing Instruction section or in Authorization.
When the Lithium Battery Mark (IATA Figure 7.1.C) is required and used for Section IB and permitted Section II lithium battery shipments, the UN number(s) must be added to the mark. Effective July 1, 2017: When the Lithium Battery Handling Label (Figure 7.4.H) is applied to packages/overpacks for Section IB and permitted Section II lithium battery shipments, the applicable UN number(s) must be marked on the package adjacent to the lithium battery handling label. [FX-05]

Sealing and Labeling Instructions

Although these instructions are not regulatory requirements, they represent FedEx best practices when shipping with corrugated boxes.

- Using the H taping method, apply at least three strips of pressure-sensitive adhesive plastic tape that is at least 2” wide to both the top and bottom of the carton.
- Tape all seams or flaps.
- Place the shipping label on the top of the largest side.
- Ensure that all required outer markings, labelings, and documentation appear.

Battery Shipment Restrictions and Regulations

FedEx Express will not accept or ship:

- Recalled or defective batteries, either as a stand-alone unit or contained with equipment.
- Recalled or defective lithium batteries contained in electronic equipment, such as a laptop.
- Waste batteries or batteries being shipped for recycling or disposal. (See IATA Special Provisions A154 and A183 as well as FX-04 for additional details on these restrictions.)

FedEx Office® Print and Ship Center locations and FedEx World Service Center® locations do not accept regulated battery shipments, with the exception of lithium battery shipments meeting Section II IATA regulations.

FedEx Packaging Services

FedEx Packaging Services offers package development consultation services. The FedEx Packaging Services lab does not test packaging containing items classified as dangerous goods.

Contacts and Resources

- How to Pack guidelines at fedex.com/packaging.

NOTICE:

FedEx Express will refuse to accept packages that do not meet FedEx Express, government, or IATA and ICAO requirements.